



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

Assembly Labor Committee Dems' Statement on Republican Stampede to Pass "Right-to-Work"

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Madison – The Democratic members of the Assembly Labor Committee issued a statement about Republicans' sudden decision to fast-track and pass so called "Right-to-Work" legislation ([Senate Bill 44](#)) in the next week:

"In his national campaign to court ultra-conservative voters, Gov. Walker will inflict his next extremist policy on Wisconsin workers and employers, with the usual help from Republicans legislators. During a National Governor's Association ([NGA](#)) meeting last week, the Governor [openly stated that running for the Republican nomination for president is his motive](#) for supporting an anti-private union bill. This so called "Right to Work" legislation is the same policy Walker has long insisted is not his priority. However, apparently not shy about jettisoning his own commitment to avoid the bill, Gov. Walker newly promised mid-February that he will sign [Senate Bill 44](#) into law within three weeks.

"The main point of the bill is that it forbids private employers from agreeing in contracts that workers must pay union dues, thus ensuring the continued weakening of workplace organizing.

"Wisconsin will continue to be at the mercy of Governor Walker's Washington ambitions. SB 44 follows other offerings to conservatives outside of Wisconsin, starting with Act 10, but recently including his budget proposals to dismantle our public K-12 and higher education systems, dismantle the equality of income created by our prevailing wage laws, and the gutting of our land conservation program.

"In return for this short-sighted campaign ploy, the residents of Wisconsin will suffer damage for many years under a "Right to Work" law. All workers will see diminished wages and poorer workplace safety. Private employers will have no choice but to tolerate the State's intrusion into their contracts with their workers. And, since many unions will no longer be able to afford training and apprenticeship programs, employers will face smaller pools of job-ready applicants. Despite Republicans' denial of the fact, more training expenses will have to be paid by employers. It's little wonder that [hundreds of Wisconsin employers](#) oppose this legislation, despite the deaf ear Republicans are turning toward their views.

"We remain profoundly disappointed in the ruthless way Republicans continue to treat Wisconsin's citizens as fodder for Scott Walker's relentless ambition."

Contact:

Rep. Christine Sinicki (608)266-8588

Rep. Cory Mason (608)266-0634

Rep. Tod Ohnstad (608)266-0455